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Project to help feed shunned Zambians

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Pia Hallenberg

April 25--A group of Gonzaga University students is relying on chickens to expand the school's relationship with aid organizations in Zambia.

Aubrey Weber, Joe Worthey, Max Bear and Jordan Madrid have formed a group called, Hope for Zambezi, which has already raised \$25,000 to pay for the construction of chicken coops to help feed people living with HIV/AIDS in the town of Zambezi, Zambia.

Weber and Worthey traveled to Zambezi last year as part of Gonzaga's study abroad program. She taught computer literacy and he was working with local entrepreneurs.

"It is amazing being there," Worthey said. "It's a very poor area. There are no cars, no cattle, no food except the food that comes in on trucks from the city several hours away."

While in Zambezi, the students met Alex Kalukangu, director and district coordinator for an organization called Number of Zambians Living Positively with HIV/AIDS -- or NZP+.

Kalukangu has just arrived on a visit to Spokane, and he will be the keynote speaker at a Hope for Zambezi fundraiser at the Community Building on May 2.

"We are really looking forward to having Alex here and showing him everything," Weber said.

The chicken coops were Kalukangu's idea.

He explained to the students that many Zambians living with HIV/AIDS are ostracized and get little or no help from their families.

"Alex wants to build a community center and a food bank in the town," Worthey said. "They used to have a food bank but it was not sustainable."

The students said chickens and chicken coops are sustainable even in the poorest areas of Zambezi and it doesn't take a lot of money to get the project started. The \$25,000 the group has raised will sustain the chicken coop project for one year.

Worthey said Zambia has a free national health care system and Zambians have access to the antiviral drugs that battle HIV/AIDS.

"But it doesn't help much to take the drugs if you don't have anything to eat," he said.

Hope for Zambezi is part of the Zags in Zambia program and has received support from the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund and professional guidance from Lisa Brown, former Washington State Senate majority leader, and Erik Paulsen, a former Washington state senator.

The student group hopes the chicken coop project in Zambezi will be adopted by future Gonzaga students.

"There are so many problems in Africa," Madrid said. "We want to really change something. Our project is local and centralized. It will really make a difference."

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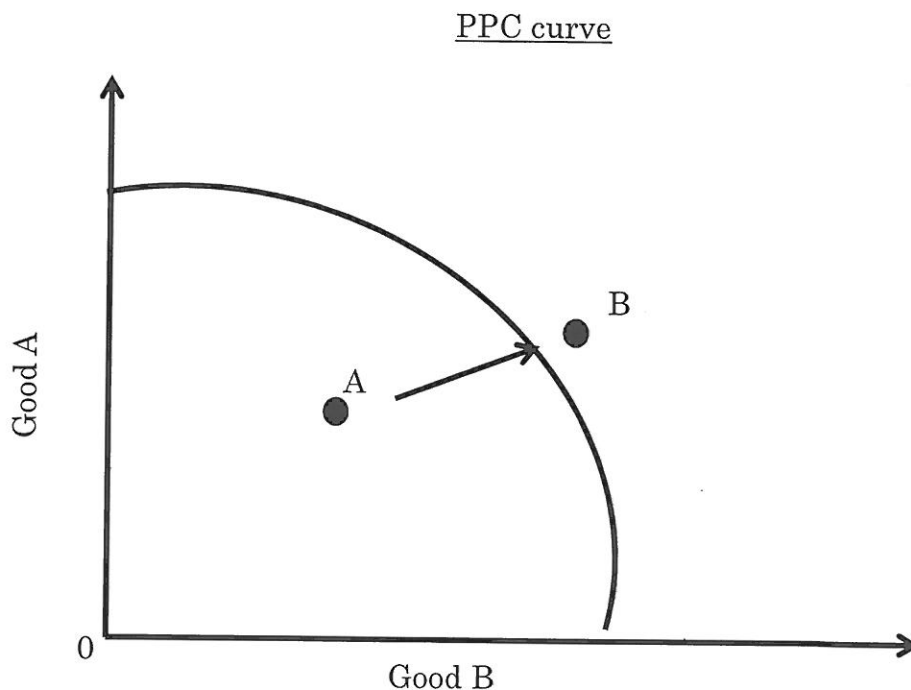
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### Project to help feed shunned Zambians

This article is about Gonzaga University students giving aid to the Zambians by making chicken coop so that there would be food for the Zambians.

The article states that constructing the chicken coop in the town would be beneficial for people's health. The article later emphasizes the importance of food.

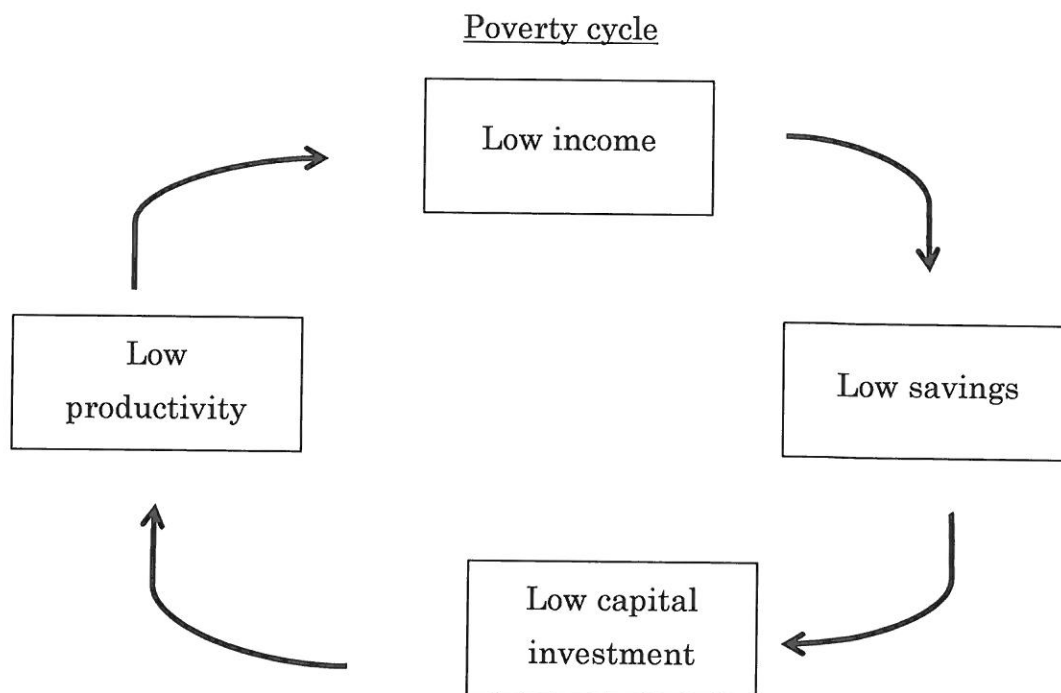


Having the chicken coop would eventually lead to the increase of productivity because there is more food available to the people who have HIV/AIDS, and the drugs for the HIV/AIDS would be effective when there is food. When the workers become productive, it means that Zambians are able to produce outside of the productive possibilities curve (PPC). PPC is a graph that shows the scarcity, trade offs and choices, and opportunity costs. In the PPC curve above when the Zambians increase their productivity, they would be going to produce at point B. Before the increase in the productivity the Zambians were producing at point A. To move from point A to B, they need to have an increase in quantity or quality. In this case the productivity

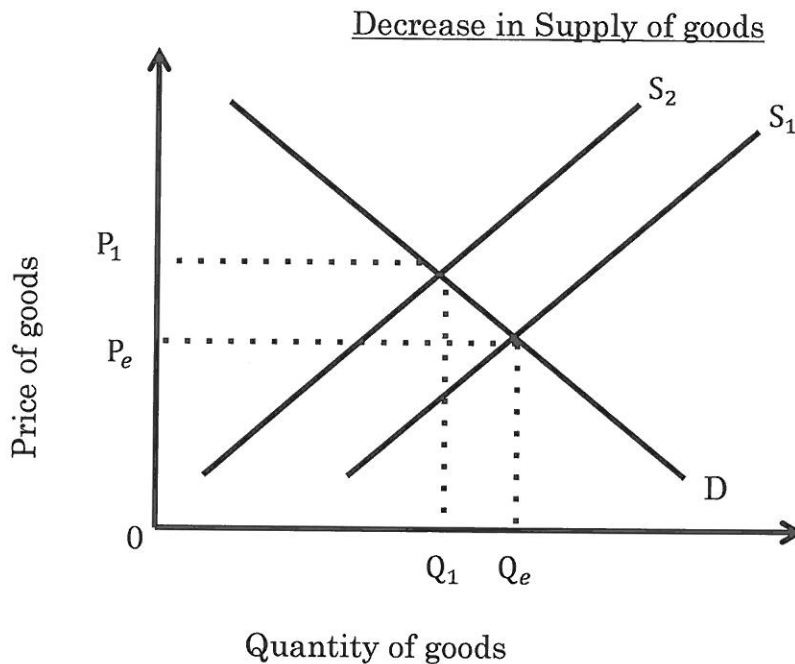
increased the quantity of the goods.

By the increase of productivity the poverty cycle would be going to break. Poverty cycle is a cycle that is difficult to escape once people get trapped and it would lead to poverty.

The poverty cycle is the cycle that is shown below.



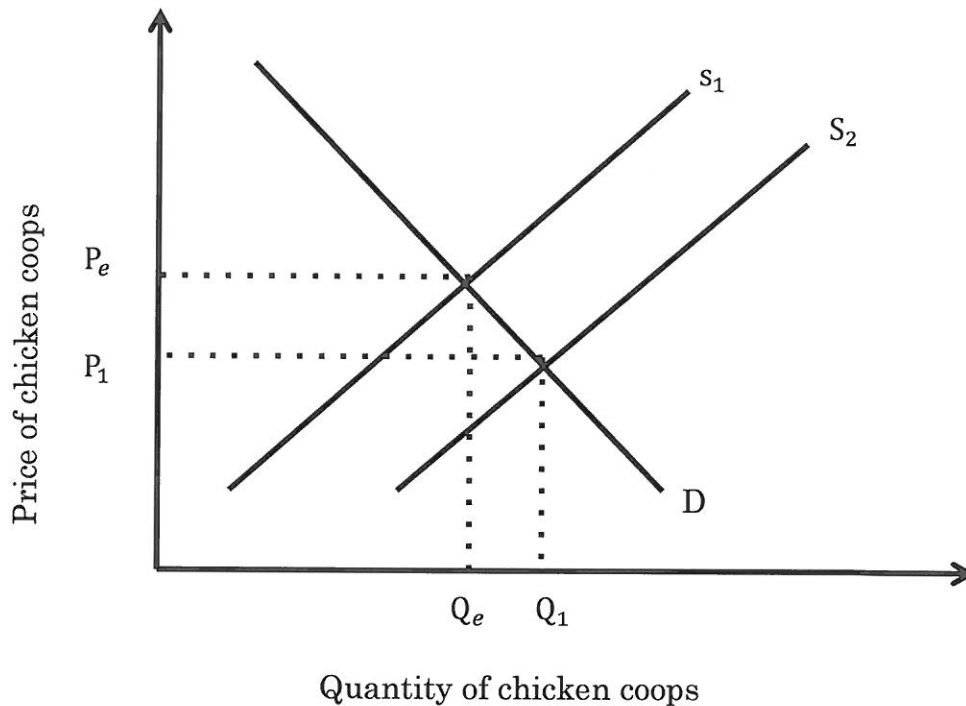
In this case by having chicken coops people would be healthier making their productivity increase, and this breaks the poverty cycle where there is low productivity, as found in the diagram above. If one place of the poverty cycle breaks, there is a possibility that the Zambians could get out of the poverty cycle.



The productivity of the people who have HIV/ AIDS is low since they do not get support from their families. This makes the supply curve shift left from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$ . Because the people who have HIV/AIDS would be inefficient in work, the supply of the goods in the market would decrease, and this leads the price of the good to increase from  $P_e$  to  $P_1$ . This increase in price level would harm the people because they are economically disadvantaged people so they would be going to have a hard time consuming the goods with the increase in price.

The article states that the Gonzaga University students raised \$25,000 to support the chicken coop project. This is in other words a subsidy. Subsidy is a payment to increase the supply of a good.

Effect of Gonzaga University students' subsidy



Because there is a subsidy by the Gonzaga University student, the supply of the chicken coop would be going to increase from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$  as it is shown in the graph above. By the subsidy from the Gonzaga University student, the price of the chicken coop would be going to decrease from  $P_e$  to  $P_1$ . By this there would be more people who can start the chicken coop and could help with starting to get out from the poverty.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the support that the Gonzaga University students are giving. One advantage would be that the aid from the Gonzaga University could help the Zambians with HIV/AIDS get out from the poverty trap, which would lead to increase productive workers. This would lead to development since the Zambians' standard of living would likely to increase. Another advantage is the longevity of this chicken coop project. Even when this project ends in a short term, it could support the Zambians in a long term because there will be people who would continue

this project and it would be an opportunity for the people to get out from the poverty cycle.

There are advantages to this project, but there are also disadvantages. One disadvantage is that the chicken coop project is going to be sustained by the \$25,000 that the Gonzaga University students raised. Because people know that they can gain subsidy, they can become inefficient. People would not be inefficient, so they would not try to be more productive and efficient. For this reason when the \$25,000 is used, there would be people, who are facing the trouble with continuing the chicken coop project. Another problem is inefficiency, which would cause the number of people who can receive subsidy to decrease.

## Bibliography

Maley, Sean, and Jason Welker. *Economics*. Oxford: Pearson Education, 2011. Print.